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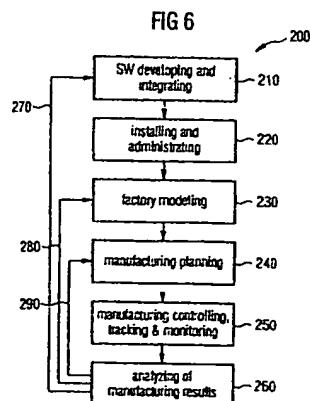
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(54) Computer integrated manufacturing techniques

(57) The present invention provides a novel distributed factory system framework including a novel factory automation lifecycle (200) having lifecycle activities for SW developing and integrating (210), installing and administrating (220), factory modeling (230), manufacturing planning (240), manufacturing controlling, monitoring and tracking (250) and analyzing of manufacturing results (260). The factory lifecycle comprises framework components. The distributed factory system framework also includes application components and SW building blocks. The framework components are adapted for managing the application components, while the application components are utilized to provide instructions for managing a process such as a wafer fab. The building blocks are adapted for forming or modifying framework and application components. The distributed factory system framework provides computer implemented

methods for integrating processing systems and facilitates process and equipment changes.

FIG 6





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
X	US 5 495 417 A (MIURA KAZUYKI ET AL) 27 February 1996 (1996-02-27) * column 13, line 41 - column 15, line 35 * * column 39, line 60 - column 47, line 67; figures 1-7,89-96 *	1,13,17, 19-24
X	US 5 657 254 A (DUROSS RONALD R ET AL) 12 August 1997 (1997-08-12) * column 4, line 66 - column 7, line 61; figures 1-4 *	15
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH	27 September 2001	Helot, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		
I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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